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United States
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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris, (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; TTY: 504-6856

Internet: bnorris@nalusda.gov

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PRESS RELEASE — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject contact:

Telephone: (301) 504-5204

FAX: (301) 504-7098; **TTY:** (301) 504-6856

Internet: jrafats@nalusda.gov

Media contact: Brian Norris

Telephone: (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; **TTY:** (301) 504-6856

Internet: bnorris@nalusda.gov

NAL Receives Rare Set of Plant Name Index Cards

Beltsville, MD — A complete set of rare Gray Herbarium index cards, which help botanists keep track of the scientific names of thousands of plants, has been donated to the National Agricultural Library (NAL).

The set was donated by Dr. Amy Rossman, Research Leader of the Systematic Botany and Mycology Laboratory of the USDA Plant Sciences Institute, and is an “invaluable addition to the NAL collection,” according to NAL librarian Jerry Rafats.

Rafats explained that keeping track of thousands of plant names has always been a problem for botanists. In fact, Charles Darwin became so frustrated with the difficulties of communicating with fellow scientists around the world because of a lack of common reference sources for plant names that he personally endowed the famous Index Kewensis. As serious study of plants in the western world gained momentum in the last half of the nineteenth century, a similar need was felt by botanists in the new world. This led to the creation of the Gray Herbarium Card Index (Gray Cards) in 1891, and which included literature dating back to 1886. The Gray Cards were developed to be used in conjunction with the Index Kewensis.

The Gray Cards are an index of all the botanical names, of specific rank and below, of phanerogams and vascular cryptogams native to the new world. Bibliographic information is included also. At present there are more than 300,000 cards. The Gray Cards are the only index that includes subspecies, varietal and form names of botanical species that are especially valuable to taxonomists and systematists, Rafats said.

The Gray Cards were begun in 1891 by Josephine A. Clark who was the USDA Librarian in Washington, D.C. from 1901 to 1907. Clark was assisted by Mary Day, Librarian of the Gray Herbarium, Harvard University. The two

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women prepared a list of species in North America and then expanded the list to include all plant species in the New World. They distributed the list to botanists and other scientists as cards. Twenty installments beginning in 1894 and continuing until 1903 amounted to about 28,000 cards.

In 1903, Day and the Gray Herbarium assumed full responsibility for the Gray Cards. Since then, a number of different individuals with the Gray Herbarium have compiled and edited the cards. In 1985, the last issue of cards was distributed and the preparation of the Gray Cards was computerized. In 1986 and 1987, the cards were distributed on microfiche.

In 1968, G.K. Hall and Co. of Boston published an offset copy of issues 1-251 of the Gray Cards in ten folio volumes. In 1985, the last issue of cards, number 303, was distributed. The Gray Cards are no longer issued in hard copy and a complete set is rare.

Rafats suspects that one day the information contained in the cards will be converted to a form retrievable by computer, making them even more valuable and useful.

In the meantime, Rafats said that it is fitting that the National Agricultural Library have a complete set of the cards.

"Josephine Clark, the USDA Librarian who started the cards, was the equivalent of the present-day NAL Director. It's like the cards have come home," Rafats said.

For additional information contact Jerry Rafats at (301) 504-5204; TTY: (301) 504-6856; FAX: (301) 504-7098; Internet: jrafats@nalusda.gov

Or write to:

Jerry Rafats
Reference & User Services Branch, Room 111
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

The National Agricultural Library is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is the largest agricultural library in the world, containing over 2.1 million volumes and receiving 26,000 current periodical titles from throughout the world. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject contact:

Telephone: (301) 504-5414

FAX: (301) 504-6409; **TTY:** (301) 504-6856

Internet: fnic@nalusda.gov

Media contact: Brian Norris

Telephone: (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; **TTY:** (301) 504-6856

Internet: bnorris@nalusda.gov

Young Student User of NAL Wins Science Award

Beltsville, MD – Ten-year-old Kari Linstrom of Beltsville, Maryland, gives a lot of credit for her county award-winning science project to resources of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) and guidance in using the resources from NAL nutritionist Shirley King Evans.

Kari, who will be going into the sixth-grade at the Beltsville Academic Center school in the fall, developed a science project on nutrition that won the grand prize for her grade level at the Prince George's County Science Fair.

According to Kari, NAL and Evans "helped and guided her" as she developed her science project on low-fat baking.

For her project Kari had classmates taste-test brownies and gingerbread cookies she baked using fat (oil and shortening) with the same items prepared without fat. Kari substituted pureed prunes and applesauce for the fat called for in the standard recipes. Kari's classmates were not told which sweets they were eating and then were asked which tasted best.

"Shirley helped me with the comparison part and with questions. And gave me other ideas that improved my project," Kari said. "It was great to have her help."

Evans, a nutritionist with NAL's Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC), enjoyed the project as much as Kari.

"I had a lot of fun working with her," Evans said. "I was as anxious to see the results of her experiment as she was."

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The results indicated to Kari that taste is as important in developing low-fat food items as is good nutrition.

"My classmates preferred the ginger bread cookies made with apple sauce over the regular ones, but they liked the regular brownies better than the ones with pureed prunes," she said.

Kari is glad she found out about NAL's Food and Nutrition Information Center. "My public library referred me to the National Agricultural Library for more information on nutrition, and Shirley had plenty," she said.

Kari thinks she could be using NAL again in her future. She is currently thinking about a career that "somehow involves both nutrition and working to save the rain forests."

According to Shirley Evans, as the largest agricultural library in the world, both of these subjects, and thousands more, are covered extensively in the NAL collection.

For additional information contact Shirley King Evans at (301) 504-5414; TTY: (301) 504-6856;
Fax: (301) 504-6409; Internet: skevans@nalusda.gov

Or write to:

Shirley King Evans
Food & Nutrition Information Center
National Agricultural Library, Room 304
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

NAL is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and, with the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, is one of three national libraries of the United States. FNIC is one of several information centers NAL established to provide specialized information services in areas of critical importance to U.S. agriculture. Other areas include rural development, animal welfare, agricultural trade, biotechnology, and more.

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject contact:

Telephone: (301) 504-5340

FAX: (301) 504-7098; **TTY:** (301) 504-6856

Internet: rdobert@nalusda.gov

Media contact: Brian Norris

Telephone: (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; **TTY:** (301) 504-6856

Internet: bnorris@nalusda.gov

List of Transgenic Fish Research Available

Beltsville, MD – A bibliography of transgenic research done on freshwater fish is available from the Biotechnology Information Center (BIC) of the National Agricultural Library (NAL).

According to BIC Coordinator, Dr. Ray Dobert, transgenic fish research uses molecular biology and genetic engineering to help develop more abundant, productive and disease resistant freshwater fish, a multi-million dollar industry in the United States.

“This bibliography seeks to aid this effort by giving scientists a comprehensive list of research that has already been conducted, allowing them to build on this past research,” Dobert said.

The publication, titled “Transgenic Fish Research: A Bibliography,” is available by sending a self-addressed mailing label to:

Biotechnology Information Center
National Agricultural Library, 4th Floor
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351

The bibliography lists 125 research projects or reviews that have been conducted on transgenic freshwater fish. Included with each project are the authors names, the areas of research dealt with and an abstract of the research.

Dobert said the bibliography includes a section on general aspects of transgenic fish research and more specific sections dealing with gene sequencing, gene expression, immunology and diseases, breeding and production.

The bibliography also gives information on obtaining copies of the reports cited.

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BIC is one of eleven information centers established by NAL to provide current information on areas of critical importance to U.S. agriculture. Other areas include agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, food and nutrition, plant genome, rural development and health, technology transfer, water quality and youth development.

The National Agricultural Library is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is the largest agricultural library in the world, containing over 2.1 million volumes and receiving 26,000 current periodical titles from throughout the world. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

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Subject contact:

Telephone: (301) 504-5947

FAX: (301) 504-7098; **TTY:** (301) 504-6856

Internet: rdobert@nalusda.gov

Media contact: Brian Norris

Telephone: (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; **TTY:** (301) 504-6856

Internet: bnorris@nalusda.gov

NAL Appoints New Coordinator of Biotech Information

Beltsville, MD – Dr. Raymond C. Dobert, an agronomist and crop physiologist, has been appointed as the coordinator of the Biotechnology Information Center (BIC) at the National Agricultural Library (NAL).

Dr. Dobert came to BIC from the Agronomy Department of the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he conducted soybean research since 1991. Prior to that he was a Congressional Fellow and legislative assistant advising on agricultural research, biotechnology and other farming issues on the staff of Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD).

From August 1985 to August 1990, Dr. Dobert was a National Needs Graduate Fellow at the University of Missouri-Columbia doing research into legume growth regulating hormones.

Other work experience has included service as a bay management specialist in Islip, New York, and an internship with the St. Lawrence County Planning Office in Canton, New York, where he assisted in developing a county natural resources inventory.

In 1984, Dr. Dobert spent two months in Kenya as a researcher with a cattle grazing ecosystem project.

He earned his undergraduate degree in biology at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, and his Ph.D at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is a native of Long Island, New York.

NAL's Biotechnology Information Center provides access to information services and publications covering many aspects of biotechnology, including genetic manipulation theory and techniques, plant and animal genetics, and food processing. The center has quick access to NAL's huge collection of agricultural materials through the AGRICOLA (*AGRICultural OnLine Access*) bibliographic database.

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The telephone numbers, etc., for BIC are (301) 504-5947; TTY: (301) 504-6856; FAX: (301) 504-7098; Internet: rdobert@nalusda.gov

BIC is one of eleven specialized information centers established by NAL to provide current information on subjects of critical importance to U.S. agriculture. Other subjects include: agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, food and nutrition, plant genome, rural development and health, technology transfer, water quality, and youth development.

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject contact:

Telephone: (301) 504-6875

FAX: (301) 504-7098; **TTY:** (301) 504-6856

Internet: afusonie@nalusda.gov

Media contact: Brian Norris

Telephone: (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; **TTY:** (301) 504-6856

Internet: bnorris@nalusda.gov

Jefferson Letters Found in NAL Collection

Beltsville, MD – Letters signed by Thomas Jefferson, and dealing with various agricultural matters, have been found among old files in the collection of the National Agricultural Library (NAL).

NAL received confirmation from the Library of Congress (LC) on August 18 that the letters were authentic. Also with the Jefferson letters were several letters addressed to Jefferson.

According to NAL Director Joseph Howard, the eleven letters date from April 24, 1786, to October 20, 1819, and include requests to Jefferson for appointments to federal agricultural offices, letters from Jefferson transferring “millet seed” and “succory seed” to various acquaintances in the United States, and a letter to Jefferson from “Lord Sheffield” of the Board of Agriculture in London, England, commenting on Jefferson’s invention of a “mould board” for use in farming.

“This is a very exciting find for the National Agricultural Library,” Howard said. “To have the original correspondence of one of our founding fathers, in which he discusses one of his favorite subjects, agriculture, is a great honor for us.”

Howard said the letters were found on August 2 contained in a file of the papers of economic historian Everett Edwards. A library patron was doing research on Edwards when she happened upon the letters and notified NAL staff. The Edwards file was contained in several boxes of materials dating from the 1940s that had been transferred to NAL from USDA’s Economic Research Service.

At the Library of Congress, a Thomas Jefferson scholar compared the letters discovered at NAL with Jefferson letters in the LC collection. The scholar judged the NAL letters authentic.

— more —

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For additional information contact Dr. Alan Fusonie at (301) 504-6875; TTY: (301) 504-6856; FAX: (301) 504-7098; Internet: afusonie@nalusda.gov

Or write to:

Dr. Alan Fusonie
Head, Special Collections
National Agricultural Library, 4th Floor
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

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NOTE: This release was previously issued to a media distribution list by USDA in August.

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Subject contact:

Telephone: (301) 504-5547

FAX: (301) 504-5181; **TTY:** (301) 504-6856

Internet: ric@nalusda.gov

Media contact: Brian Norris

Telephone: (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; **TTY:** (301) 504-6856

Internet: bnorris@nalusda.gov

Revised Health Resources Guides Available

Beltsville, MD – The Rural Information Center (RIC) of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) is offering two revised resource guides to aid rural community leaders in dealing with problems associated with rural health services.

“Rural Health Services Funding: A Resource Guide” and “Agricultural Safety and Health: A Resource Guide” were prepared by RIC’s Rural Information Center Health Service (RICHS) and list publications and audio-visual materials on these subjects. Publication of the guides was supported by the Office of Rural Health Policy of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The guides were originally made available in early 1992. The revised guides contain updated information.

Included in “Agricultural Safety and Health” is a listing of national and regional organizations working in this area, with addresses and telephone numbers. “Rural Health Services Funding” contains a list of “selected foundations contributing to rural health projects.”

“The guides give rural community leaders and health professionals a good start in developing rural health programs,” said Pat John, RIC coordinator. “These guides can save hours of research for those looking for background and practical information on rural health subjects.”

According to John, “Rural Health Services Funding” highlights the resources most useful in finding funding for rural health programs, a major challenge facing rural health care providers.

“Agricultural Safety and Health” provides links to information dealing with health and safety risks facing the nation’s agricultural workforce. The National Safety Council estimates that as many as 1,300 agricultural workers are

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killed in farming accidents each year and about 120,000 farmworkers are injured.

The resource guides are available by sending a self-addressed mailing label, with a request specifying the desired guide, to:

Rural Information Center, Room 304
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351

For information concerning rural subjects call, 1-800-633-7701 (toll free); Washington, DC, area and international callers use (301) 504-5547; TTY: (301) 504-6856; FAX: (301) 504-5181; Internet: ric@nalusda.gov

RIC is a joint project of NAL and the Extension Service and is one of 11 information centers established by NAL to gather information and provide services on issues of critical importance to U.S. agriculture. Other issues are agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, biotechnology, food and nutrition, plant genome, technology transfer, water quality, and youth development.

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FAX: (301) 504-5472; TTY: (301) 504-6856

Internet: bnorris@nalusda.gov

Agriculture Secretary Proposes to Merge NAL with New Research Agency

Beltsville, MD – The National Agricultural Library (NAL) will be merged into a new Agricultural Research and Education Service under a proposed reorganization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced by USDA Secretary Mike Espy on September 7, 1993.

Under the plan proposed by Secretary Espy, NAL will join USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Extension Service (ES) and Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS) to form the Agricultural Research and Education Service. With the reorganization, each of the four current USDA agencies would cease to exist as separate agencies.

This is among numerous changes to USDA outlined by Secretary Espy in a September 7 speech before USDA employees in Washington, D.C. Further details are not available.

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Internet: ric@nalusda.gov

Media contact: Brian Norris

Telephone: (301) 504-6778

FAX: (301) 504-5472; TTY: (301) 504-6856

Internet: bnorris@nalusda.gov

Rural Development Bibliographies Available from NAL

Beltsville, MD — The latest in a series of new and updated bibliographies on rural development subjects are now available from the National Agricultural Library (NAL).

The bibliographies give listings of articles, books, videotapes and other materials on specific subjects such as funding sources or other organizations related to rural development. From "Rural Education" to "Retirement Communities in Rural America," 17 new or updated bibliographies have been produced by NAL's Rural Information Center (RIC). Much of the material listed is either annotated or abstracted and available in the NAL collection.

According to RIC coordinator Pat John, the bibliographies can save people a lot of research time. "We've compiled a broad range of pertinent citations on each subject," she said. "With these bibliographies, you can go right to the materials you need."

Subjects in the rural development bibliography series are: "Innovative Approaches to Rural Education (No. 22)," "Retirement Communities in Rural America (No. 23)," "Volunteerism (No. 24)," "Downtown Revitalization (No. 25)," "The Value of Wetlands (No. 26)," "Electronic Access to Rural Information: User's Manual for ALF Bulletin Board (No. 27 — this is not a bibliography, but a guide to using NAL's ALF computer bulletin board)," "A Guide to Funding Resources (No. 28)," "Financial Management for Local Governments (No. 29)," "Rural Youth Employment (No. 30)," and "Journals Significant to Rural Development Received at the National Agricultural Library (No. 31)."

Others in the library's *Quick Bibliography* series are: "Agricultural and Farmer Cooperatives, January 1983-March 1993 (QB 93-45)," "Rural America's Elderly, January 1983-January 1993 (QB 93-36)," "Rural Leadership, January 1980-April 1993 (QB 93-51)," "Population Migration in Rural America, January 1980-January 1993 (QB 93-35)," "Rural

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Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development, January 1980-January 1993 (QB 93-38),” “Native American Natural Resource Management, January 1980-January 1993 (QB 93-39),” “Native American Health Care, January 1980-January 1993 (QB 93-40),” and “Hazardous and Toxic Waste Management, January 1989-May 1993 (QB 93-59).”

Copies are available by sending a self-addressed mailing label, with a request specifying the desired bibliography, to:

Rural Information Center, Room 304
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351

The Rural Information Center is one of 11 information centers established by NAL to gather information and provide services on issues of critical importance to the agricultural community. Additional subjects covered by other information centers include: agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, biotechnology, food and nutrition, plant genome, technology transfer, water quality, and youth development.

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